

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable consideration in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 7, and 13 being independent. By this amendment, claims 1, 7, 13, 19, and 20 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claim 1 now recites an input and output method in which image data is input from at least one image reader and image data is output to at least one printer. In a dividing step of the method, image processing of one image processing unit is divided into an image input job and an image output job. In a managing step, execution of the image input job and of the image output job are managed independently. An end of the execution of the image input job is determined in a determining step. After a determination of the end of execution of a first image input job, a second input image job is permitted to be input and the second image input job is started while the image output job corresponding to the first image input job is executed.

Claims 7 and 13, relating to an image input and output apparatus and an image processing system, respectively, are the other independent claims. Both of these claims recite, among other features, controlling means that permits an input of a second image input job and starts the second image input job while an image output job corresponding to a first image input job is being executed, after the end of the first image job is determined.

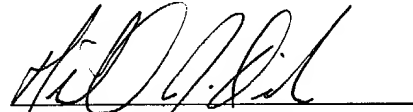
Applicant submits that claims 1-21 are still allowable.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance.

Favorable consideration and an early passage to issuance are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. J. Didas", is written over a horizontal line.

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